

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 4 with the following rewritten version:

-- Figure 1 and Figure 2 respectively show a side view and a front view of a vertical-type bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus 1 according to one embodiment of the present invention. The bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus 1 is a machine that manufactures a bag by covering foodstuffs like potato chips (hereinafter, foodstuffs is referred to as potato chips) with a film, and then longitudinally and transversely sealing the film which has been formed into a tubular shape. In addition, the bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus 1 has an additional function of mounting manufactured bags to a strip. Hereinafter, the left hand side of Figure 1, which is the direction toward which the bags are transferred as the bags are manufactured and attached to the strip, is referred to as the front side of the bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus 1, while the right hand side is referred to as the rear side of the bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus 1. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 26 with the following rewritten version:

-- The sealing time in the bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus 1 varies according to the size of the bag B to be manufactured and the material of the film F used. Principally, the change in the sealing time is the change in the time that the pair of sealing jaws 51 grasps the portions that form the upper and lower ends of the bag B. The sealing time can be changed by offsetting, i.e., varying the distance between the point at which the pair of sealing jaws 51 begin to grasp the tubular film that will form the bag B, and the point at which they release their grasp of the tubular film. Herein, as shown in Figure 12 and Figure 13, the sealing time is changed by offsetting the height position of the point at which the pair of sealing jaws 51 begins to grasp the tubular film that will form the bag B. The pair of sealing jaws 51 is controlled so that the height position of the point at which the pair of sealing jaws 51 releases its grasp (release position) of the tubular film that will form the bag B is fixed. In other words, as shown in Figure 4, Figure 12, and Figure 13, the point 11 at which the pair of sealing jaws 51 releases its grasp of the tubular film that will form the bag

B is relatively fixed ~~relative~~ within the bag manufacturing and packaging apparatus 1 regardless of the distance by which the pair of sealing jaws 51 moves downward while grasping the tubular film. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 17 with the following rewritten version:

-- The holding mechanisms 31 grab and hold the bag B with their grasping arms 31b (refer to Figure 6) at a holding point P1 (refer to Figure 9). The grasping arms 31b circle around, respectively from both the front and rear sides to grasp the upper part of the bag B Bag on both the left and right sides of the bag B. The holding point P1 is determined based on the fixed point P11, where the sealing jaws 51 of the transverse sealing mechanism 17 release their grasp of the bag B. Like the fixed point P11, the holding point P1 is always fixed, and is set to a position lower than the fixed point P11 by at least a predetermined distance. In other words, the holding point P1 is always at the same position even if the size of the bag B or the material of the film F changes. --